

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
July 20, 2022**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday July 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**1. Call to order**

President Middlesworth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Prayer**

Commissioner Steve Wright led prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Conner led the pledge of allegiance.

**4. Roll Call**

In attendance physically were Council members Shane Middlesworth, Frank Hix, Mike Roorbach, Chuck Poling, Mike Conner, and Mark Leming. Councilmen Mike Scott was absent. Also, physically present Auditor Jim McWhirt, Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens and Council Attorney Phil Stephenson.

**NOTE:** Six (6) members were present in person.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Hix moved to approve the minutes from the regular session June 15, 2022, as presented. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 4-2 Councilmen Conner and Leming abstained.

**6. Auditor's Report**

Auditor McWhirt sent his report to the Council members. There is nothing out of the ordinary unless there are any questions. There were no questions.

**7. New Business**

**A. Public Defenders-**Bruce Elliott is asking for a transfer of \$2,340.00 from Depositions/Transcriptions to CHINS/TPR, and a transfer of \$6,000.00 from Depositions/Transcriptions to Hourly Investigator/Secretary fund. Councilman Conner made a motion to transfer as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

**B. Circuit Court-**Judge Mark Spitzer is asking for a transfer in the amount of \$1,500.00 from Contractual Services to Professional Services, and an additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,500.00 for Professional Services. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 6-0.

**C. Area Plan Department**-Ryan Malott is asking for a transfer of appropriation in the amount of \$1,000,000. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

**D. County Sheriff Department**-Reggie Nevels is asking for a transfer in the amount of \$20,000 from Salaries to Special Team. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

**E. Central Dispatch**-Kevin Hicks is asking for a transfer in the amount of \$10,000.00 from Training and Education to Contractual Services. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 6-0.

**F. County Highway Department**-David White is asking for a transfer in the amount of \$37,000.00 from Calcium Chloride and \$50,000.00 from Vehicle Insurance to a new building fund that will be created if this request is approved. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 5-1.

**G. Superior Court II**-Judge Dana Kenworthy is asking for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,768.50 and a transfer of \$5,000.00 from appeals and \$3,000.00 from equipment. This will cover the cost of hiring a new staff member immediately, due to the retirement of another staff member. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 6-0.

**H. County Coroner**-Dean Small is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$45,000.00 to cover the Autopsy, Laboratory and Transports account for the remainder of the year. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 6-0.

**I. County Assessor**-Assessor Rhonda Wylie is not present. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to suspend the rule and act upon the request. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 5-1.

Rhonda Wylie is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,000.00 be added to the travel & conference account. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 5-1.

**J. Emergency Medical Services**-Duaine Ashcraft is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$40,000.00 to Garage and Motors to cover additional fuel costs and repairs. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Hix; motion carried 6-0.

Director Ashcraft is also asking for the addition of 2 full time positions and to amend the salary ordinance. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

**K. County Health Department**-Dr. David Moore is asking for approval of the COVID testing grant and a salary ordinance amendment that goes with this approval. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

Dr. Moore is also asking for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$44,573.00 and to amend the salary ordinance. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 6-0.

**L. County Commissioners**-Commissioner Wright is asking for a transfer in the general fund in the amount of \$3,000.00 and the Cumulative Capital Development fund in the amount of \$2,595.59. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

Commissioner Wright is asking for an additional appropriation in the general fund in the amount of \$37,000.00 this is for the GeoPermits software. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

President Middlesworth expressed we have talked about before in discussion regarding the wheel tax. We have received information from two (2) other counties what their wheel tax structure looks like. If this body was to implement a wheel tax, it would have to be effective by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Auditor Jim McWhirt stated if you want it to be effective January 1, 2023, you will have to act and approve it before September 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have to have a public hearing and an action.

President Middlesworth expressed my thought is to create a wheel tax committee to study what the will of this body would be for wheel tax. President Middlesworth asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Councilman Conner and Middlesworth volunteered to be on the wheel tax committee.

Attorney Phil Stephenson expressed when you say this can be done one time, this is an ordinance, that presumes you have unanimous consent, if you come the first time and pass it, if you don't have unanimous consent you will have to go to a second reading.

President Middlesworth expressed the other thing we need to discuss, which is not on the agenda is, we received a resignation letter from Jared Florance. This is the Council's appointment for APC, there is a vacancy with our appointment with the APC. President Middlesworth expressed to advertise the vacancy and whoever is interested could submit their letters and two (2) weeks from now be the cut off and have approval at the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **8. Old Business**

None

## **8. Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion**

**Committee Reports-**EMA Director Bob Jackson gave an update on the tower project. The Marion site is 95% done, by the end of the week the Fairmount delivery school site will be complete 100%. Then they will be moving to the Upland site.

Director Jackson also gave an update on the parking lot project behind Dispatch. I&M has removed the pole and we put up a new flood light. When the Highway department gets an opportunity, they will pave the parking lot and alley.

**Future Meeting Dates:** August 10, 2022.

Budget Hearings: August 17, 18, 24, 25 at 6:00 pm.

### **9. Adjournment**

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.